

House Bill 27  
March 5, 2013  
Presented by Jim Kropp  
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairperson and committee members, I am Jim Kropp, Chief of Law Enforcement of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here today on behalf of the Director in opposition to House Bill 27.

FWP opposes HB 27 for several reasons. First, the usage of silenced weapons has been proposed during the last two legislative sessions and it has failed both times. As you may recall, HB 73, which substantially liberalized our states wolf season, has already passed this body, was signed by the Governor and implemented this season. Allowing the utilization of suppressed weapons to take wolves does not help with the season structure, nor will it add significantly to our state's wolf harvest.

FWP, as well as many conservation organizations, are concerned about the image of hunters and the future of hunting in Montana. Hunting with suppressors or silencers comes with negative connotations that warrant careful consideration on our part. We simply see very limited benefit to the sporting public by this bill, and feel its passage is not worth the limited considerations that the bill proposes.

Additionally, from a law enforcement perspective, suppressors represent a challenge to both wardens and landowners as they try to ensure that all hunters comply with both the law and with rules set out by property owners.

For these reasons we recommend a Do Not Pass. Thank you.